



News from Iceland

Please note that this article is over 1 month old

Third largest structure in Iceland demolished

Once ubiquitous, few radios now receive long wave broadcasts. Priority is now given to boosting FM signals. RÚV's long wave transmitter in East Iceland has been demolished.

Darren Adam  
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of the country and out into the Norwegian Sea. In a statement, RÚV say that the equipment needed to maintain the service is very expensive, and few radios now receive long wave broadcasts.

The change is being made in association with Iceland's Civil Defence and other bodies concerned with emergencies, as long wave signals have traditionally formed part of emergency communication planning. However, an upgraded FM system will take over this function.

The long wave signal from Eiður, on 207kHz, has been replaced by a more powerful FM network in East Iceland. RÚV has increased the number of FM transmitters and renewed existing masts. Long wave transmissions will continue for a time on 189 kHz from Hellissandur at Gufuskálar in West Iceland - Iceland's tallest structure at 412 metres - but it too will ultimately close, and then the FM system will fully take over the role of safety broadcasts.



Speaking before the demolition, Bragi Reynisson, director of technical affairs at RÚV, said "The mast will be cut down in such a way that it falls to the ground. Increased requirements for flight safety around Egilsstaðir Airport have called for us to take action and remove the mast. Of course, it is always problematic to demolish such a tall structure. We will be joined by a police team to ensure everything is safe nearby."

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The long wave mast at Hellisandur, continuing to broadcast - for now - on 189 kHz. It is the tallest structure in the country.

- RÚV - Darren Adam

The construction and upgrades of the FM transmission system in less populated places started in 2017, and is progressing well. Transmitters have been placed in the Highlands, as have powerful sites at key locations for seafarers. Back-up power stations reduce the risk of transmission interruptions due to weather and power outages.

"There are holes in it [FM coverage], as there has been with long wave. But what we have done in recent years is to build a large number of transmitters in order to consolidate the FM system. And we have replaced equipment at older transmission sites, and we have also built backup power or battery backup power for up to 24 hours at all major transmission sites in the East. We strive to cover all year-round residential areas and all major roads and major tourist attractions. But unfortunately there will be places that are outside that are simply very difficult to reach. There we have to refer to other ways to make contact, such as for example through satellite systems such as Starlink or through satellite phones," says Bragi.

Long wave signals travel for very long distances, and so have been useful to offer coverage of large land masses and sea areas. However, services are in decline worldwide, as ever fewer listeners

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Full information on how to receive RÚV's services, on air and online, [can be found here](#). RÚV welcomes reports of any problems experienced.



The now silent mast at Eiðar is located just north of Egilsstaðir, in East Iceland.

– Google Maps



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The mast which will be demolished on Wednesday.

RÚV – Rúnar Snær Reynisson

radio

long wave



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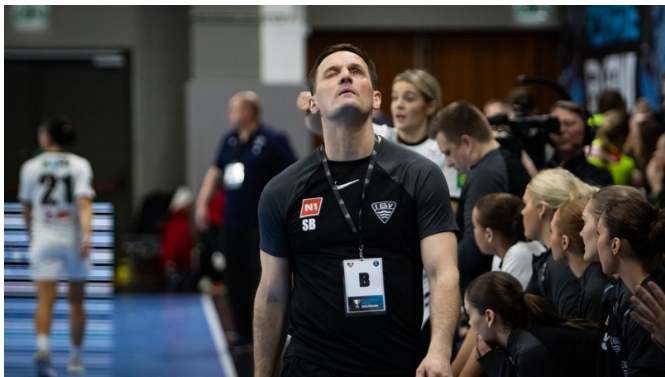
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